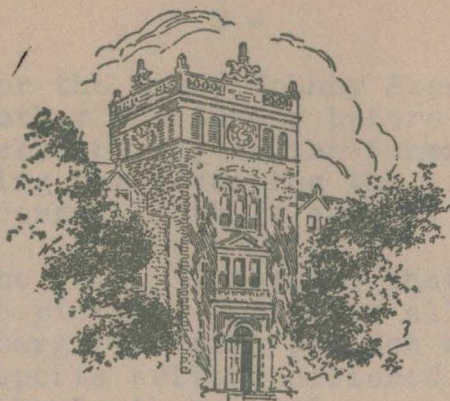


To the

# FRONT

Number 102  
December 20, 1946



from

## MUHLENBERG

Dear Mules:

MUHLENBERG

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ST. BONAVENTURE

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Yes, it does look strange, seeing a football score in this letter so late in the season, but it's true. I purposely held this letter until today so that I could give you the results of Muhlenberg's first bowl game which was played last Saturday. For those of you who are out of touch with the newspapers, and in order to give you the complete story of how the Mules came to be selected for this game, let me go back to the end of the season.

The invitation to play in the Tobacco Bowl game at Lexington, Kentucky, came to Muhlenberg at the close of the most successful season in the history of the College. The Lexington Kiwanis Club sponsored the affair and extended the invitation. The matter was put up to the players and they voted unanimously to accept the challenge. The Athletic Committee of the College discussed the question and left the decision up to President Tyson, who, after consulting Coach Schwartzwalder and his aides, accepted. Drills were immediately started with several practices held in the Armory because of inclement weather.

The Brown Indians of St. Bonaventure, a Catholic college located in Olean, New York, are coached by Hugh Devore, a former Notre Dame star. They had completed their season, winning five out of six games, and scoring 135 points while holding their opponents to 43. Five of their squad were Allentown boys, which added a great deal of local interest to the battle. Last summer they had attempted to schedule a game with Muhlenberg for this coming season, but our schedule had been completed months before and it was impossible to fit them into our schedule.

Twenty years ago, the two teams met on the gridiron for the only meeting between the two schools. At that time, our genial "Haps" Benfer was the Mule mentor. Those were the days of the famous Nick Borrelli, Eddie Dickert, Winnie Slemmer and other stars. On this particular day, however, Haps found his squad riddled by injuries and his stars on the sidelines. Muhlenberg emerged the victor by a 9-7 score, with a substitute back, Greenberg, breaking loose for a 60 yard run, and a field goal in the last thirty seconds of play clinching the game for Muhlenberg.

The Mules went into the contest a slight favorite in the betting, something of half a point. Their record of 281 points scored during this season while holding the enemy teams to 74 had made them the favorites. Although both teams had not played a common foe, each had gone through a real schedule and each had placed a man on the Little All-America team.

There was a great deal of excitement as the time for the game approached. John L. Lewis had the country by the throat, train travel was uncertain, although the round trip fare of \$55.14 was advertised in the papers. Groups made up bus loads at prices ranging from \$13.00 to \$20.00 for the trip. Something new was added to the athletic records of Muhlenberg when it was decided to fly the team to Lexington. They chartered two C-47's and 42 players, wives, coaches, members of the Athletic Committee, reporters and photographers had a rough, rough trip. The party was a bit green around the gills when they finally landed, but a bit of terra firma soon made them feel in fighting shape again.

The ever faithful trainer, Scotty Renwick, would have none of this modern method of transportation. Scotty and Bill Breish made the trip by auto accompanied by several players. Scotty took a lot of good natured kidding about his trip down, but stuck to his guns whenever they mentioned the possibility of parachuting down to the field.



The Captain for the game, Johnny Sweatlock, had the misfortune of losing his mother the Sunday before game time. John went home and left for Kentucky the day of the funeral and played a bang up game. His picture showing him receiving the winner's trophy was a fitting climax to a wonderful football career.

And now for the game. I thought that you would be interested in a bit of the pre-game picture, but after all, here is the story of another fighting Muhlenberg team that did not know the meaning of the word defeat. Southern sports writers declared that the game matched any of those played in the Southern conference this year and many were loud in saying that it would be the best of the bowl games to be held this year. It had everything, long runs, passes, interceptions, brilliant offensive and defensive play. So here we go for the story.

Chatlos took the Mule kickoff and returned to 70 yards to the Mule 30 where the Cardinal and Gray held for downs. Three and a half minutes and four plays later, the Mules had a touchdown and led 6-0. Bell passed to Dean in the end zone and the try for point was missed. The Bonnies came right back to knot the score at 6-6 when Haggerty, who was a will-of-the-whisp speedster and a thorn in Muhlenberg's side all afternoon, ran 44 yards to set up the touchdown play. Colella scored and the extra point was missed. Recovering a Bonnie fumble, Muhlenberg lost no time in again reaching pay dirt territory when Bell passed to Sikorski for both the touchdown and the extra point. As the first period ended, we led 13-6. In the first two minutes of the second period, Muhlenberg stretched its lead to 19-6 when with a beautiful passing and running attack, the Mules swept down the field and Sikorski bucked over from the nine. Bill Barker's try for point was wide. Again Haggerty turned on the steam with a 71 yard run to the Mule 14 and the upstate New Yorkers pushed another 6 pointer across, with the half ending 19-12 in our favor.

The Bonnies came back fighting, and I really mean fighting, when they tied up the ball game in the third period 19-19 on a beautiful passing attack. In the early minutes of the fourth period, the Mules took over on their own 6 and went right up the field. Harry Mackin, a sub back fumbled the ball on the Bonnie 10, but Carm Sbordone saw the chance of a lifetime for a lineman to score a touchdown and scooped up the ball and scored. Quint kicked the extra point and the Mules led 26-19. Again St. Bonaventure came back and a 37 yard pass gave them another touchdown. Right about here, I believe my blood pressure hit a new high, for, though the try for point was wide and the Mules led 26-25, there were still eight minutes of playing time remaining. Up and down the field the play went, with one amusing incident happening to break the tension. Morris Quint, Mule quarterback, intercepted a lateral on our 16 and was tackled so hard that he lost his pants and had to be wrapped in a blanket and escorted from the field. Big "Garge" Bibighaus stopped the Bonnie threat when he intercepted a pass on the five and ran it back to the ten. The game ended soon afterward and another victory was notched in the guns of the 1946 Muhlenberg football team.

The favorite pastime these days is picking teams, all-state, little all-America, opponent, north-south-and what have you. Everybody from the Associated Press on down has his favorites, and we record here the Muhlenberg men who have made the various mythical elevens. The Associated Press' Little All-America team has George Bibighaus as end on the first team with Jack Crider receiving honorable mention. The 1946 Associated Press' All-Pennsylvania Collegiate team has George at end and Jack in the back field. Bill Bell, Diz Dean and Eddie Sikorski received honorable mention. The Associated Press also picked an All-East team and George and Jack got on the honorable mention list there.

Jack Crider led all backs in the east and in the state in scoring this year when he tallied 90 points during the season, 42 more than the winning mark of last year's winner, Penn State's Joe Tepsic. Jack's 15 touchdowns in nine games placed him ahead of such stars as Davis and Blanchard of Army, Bruno of Geneva and Minisi of Penn.

Johnny Sweatlock, who has played a wonderful brand of football during the entire season although considerably handicapped at times by injuries, received the most valuable player award given by the Downtown Quarterbacks at a recent dinner in Allentown.



The Major is having some trouble with the professional football clubs dickering with his players who are still eligible for college football next season. He hopes that they will be a bit more considerate and allow the boys to finish their education.

Basketball has opened and to date the team has played five games, winning three and losing two heartbreakers. The scores are as follows:

Muhlenberg	67	Moravian	47
Muhlenberg	33	Temple	34
Muhlenberg	86	Univ. of Newark	34
Muhlenberg	33	Princeton	37
Muhlenberg	59	Villanova	45

The season opened on December 4th. The squad was dealt a stunning blow when Al Saemmer was injured in an automobile accident which required some hundred odd stitches to patch up various portions of Al's epidermis. He was slated to be a member of the starting five and now may be lost for the entire season. Red Baldwin suffered with an attack of boils and did not get into action until the Villanova game. Red Graner had some bad ankles, and the problem of practice space was a sore one for the squad. Sounds like we are alibing so early in the season, but we have no intention of that - merely a statement of facts as they are. The names you will see in this letter in the coming weeks in connection with basketball are Red Baldwin, Ed Donovan, Harry Donovan, Red Graner, Dick McGee, Eddie Schwob, Jake Bornheimer, Al Jessen, Chuck Thiesen, Jim Russick, Jim Capehart, Marvin Jaffee, Jim Weldon, Holbert Arrison, Ray Lewis, Ed Willenbecher, Dan Mackin, no relation to Harry Mackin of football fame, and Bob Lonergan. Eagerly awaited are the arrival of Diz Dean and Kenny Moyer of the football squad who have been concentrating their attentions on football.

Off to a slow start, the Mules warmed up and outran a game but undermanned Moravian team 67-47 before 2600 spectators in Rockne Hall. The Mules use a fast break on offense and man-to-man on defense and although their form was far from that of the previous years' teams, they cut loose with a barrage of points in the second half to win handily. Harry Donovan and Eddie Schwob sparkled in this game with 15 and 10 points respectively.

The second game saw the Mules taking on a star-packed Temple University team in Convention Hall in Philadelphia where the Owls managed to squeeze out a 34-33 victory. Last year the Owls defeated the Cardinal and Gray 47-33. This year the Temple aggregation froze the ball for the last two minutes of play to protect their slim lead and Bud's boys could not break in for the winning points.

Harry Donovan got red hot against the University of Newark and scored 43 points, breaking the old Muhlenberg record of 27 points, which he held jointly with Red Baldwin, and also breaking the Rockne Hall scoring record of 28 points, made by a high school star in one of the play-off games last year. Harry had seventeen field goals and nine fouls to lead his team to victory over the Newark boys. Having scored 28 points during the first half, he came back with fifteen more in the second half to clinch all scoring records.

The Princeton game was one which should have been won but the Tigers raced up and down the court with such success that they took home the bacon by a 37-33 score. Eddie Donovan kept the Mules in the ball game with 13 points, but the rest of the aggregation just couldn't get started.

Villanova had defeated Princeton by four points the night before we met the Wildcats on their own court. This did not daunt the Mules who went to town and clipped the claws of their opponents 59-45. Red Baldwin was back in the lineup and was right on Dick McGee's heels in the pointmaking department. Dick, playing a whale of a game, scored 19 points and Red had 15.

Other campus news records the fact that a new treasurer for the College has been appointed. He is Howard M. MacGregor, who comes to Muhlenberg from Agnes Scott College, Decatur, Georgia, where he was assistant business manager and assistant treasurer. He will take over the duties of his office on January 1, 1946. Muhlenberg has been named as one of 11 Pennsylvania Colleges for the National Teacher



Examinations of the American Council of Education. Dr. Carl Boyer has been named as the examiner. The Pre-Meds bowled over the Pre-Theos in the annual "Sin" bowl game on the campus by a score of 12-0. Every member of the campus community, some 1600, were given chest x-rays by a mobile unit under the direction of Dr. Thomas H. Weaver, Jr., director of student health. The Senior ball was a battle of bands as Randy Brooks and Walt Simpson alternated on the podium from 9-2 and provided the capacity crowd with a delightful evening of dancing. The affair was held at Castle Gardens.

I'll have to leave the mail for the next issue, as I've rambled on long enough. Here's wishing you all, from all of us, the very merriest Christmas and the happiest New Year that you have ever had. I'll be back in another two weeks with more news. Until then, so long and happy holidays.

As ever,

John

JOHN H. WAGNER  
Alumni Secretary